loan from SIDBI. Two IID centres, one each in Assam and Manipur have been sanctioned.

The Industrial Policy for the North Eastern Region provides Direct and Indirect tax incentives and other concessions to the new industrial units and to substantial expansion.

Closure of PSUs

53. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of all major Central Trade unions have urged the Prime Minister ot reverse Government's decision to close eight Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) which could be revived;

(b) whether the closure of PSUs would result in unemployment of a large number of employees;

(c) if so, whether Government have not taken any concrete steps to revive the sick PSUs in the last eight months; and

(d) the reasons therefor and reaction of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (d) Government has taken a decision to offer benefits of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to employees of unviable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) which are facing the prospect of winding up. BIFR/ Disinvestment Commission, at one stage or the other, after examining possibilities for revival, expressed preliminary/final view regardign winding up of these units. Representations have been received after the said decision of giving VRS benefits was taken by the Government. The decision has been taken principally to mitigate the hardship of employees of such PSUs. In the eventuality of winding up, employees of the Company would be eligible only for compensation under the I.D. Act, whereas benefits under VRS are substantially higher. Government has been supporting revival of viable PSUs. Revival schemes of 9 BIFR referred PSUs under the Department of Heavy Industry have been approved by the Government involving fresh infusion of funds of Rs. 382 crores and financial restructuring of Rs. 1535 crores.

Globalization and Indian industry

54. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government favour that "Indian Industry must gear up for globalization", as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 26th October, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of discussion/meetings held with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry this year and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether Government have so far chalked out any plan to ensure that no corrupt, anti-national and criminal elements enter the country in the name of globalization, which may prove deterimental to the interests of India?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister while addressing the 71st Annual Session of FICCI announced certain important measures to revive the economy.

These include:

(i) Measures to revive capital market and boost investment such as permission to buy back shares and inter-corporate investments.

(ii) To permit an appropriate level of minority foreign equity in the insurance sector.

(iii) The decision to build 7000 km six-lane highways costing Rs. 28,000 crores.

(iv) To identify five cities for construction of world-class international airports with upto 100% foreign equity participation.

The Government is committed to creating a business culture and ethos where corruption and criminal elements do not find any place. This would be achieved through sustained interaction with business and trade associations and effective implementation of all legal provisions.

Loans provided under PMRY

55. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided in Banka, Bhagalpur and Godda Districts in Bihar under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojna since 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said loan is negligible as far as Banka, Bhagalpur and Godda is concerned as unemployed persons do not avail themsevles of such loan mainly because of commission demanded by the concerned bank officials;

(c) whetherGovernment have received any complaint in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The statement giving the amount of loan-provided in Banka, Bhagalpur and Godda districts in Bihar under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is given in the Statement, *(see* below)

(b) to (d) Though the targets allocated to these districts have not been achieved fully, yet the amount disbursed is not negligible as seen from the Statement. No specific complaint of commission demanded by the bank officials has been received. However, the State Govt, is taking up the matter with the banks and the respective DICs.

Statement

Loan Disbursed by Banks under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana As reported by Govt, of Bihar

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Banka			Bhagalpur			Godda		
	Target	Loan disbursed by banks		Target	Loan disbursed by banks		Target	Loan disbursed by banks	
	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	Amount	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	Amount	(Nos.)	(Nos.)	Amount
1996-97	225	122	82.06	625	310	198.95	200	138	103.18
1997-98*	218	72	49.99	607	264	193.13	194	72	51.02

* Disbursement for the case sanctioned during 1997-98 is still continuing.

Meeting of Prime Minister with CH

56. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the action plan emerged out of the recent meeting of the Prime Minister with the Confederation of Indian Industry; and

(b) the time-frame set for clearance of proposals on foreign direct investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY(SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Government interaction with trade and industry is a continuous and ongoing process. Keeping in view the feedback received from them, policy interventions are made from time to time.

(b) As per extant guidelines, Foreign Investment Promotion Boad (FIPB) is required to ensure that as far as possible, the Government's decision on a Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposal is communicated to the applicant within six weeks. FIPB is making all efforts to adhere to the time frame, and further improve on it.

Facilitation Councils for SSIs

57. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr Government had recently asked the State Governments to set up Facilitation Councils for removing/solving the woes of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the background of such a decision;

(c) whether all State Governments have complied with Government directive in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of cases received by such Councils and the cases disposed of, so far State-wise; and

(0 what precise efforts Government have made to provide effective marketing support services for SSI units which are facing problems due to delayed payment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.